

Claims

What is claimed is:

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1. A chewable confectionery composition delivering to tooth surfaces a unit dose of a plaque reducing enzyme the composition comprising a small but effective amount of an enzyme which functions to disrupt or interfere with plaque formation and adhesion to tooth surfaces and a non-cariogenic sweetener, the enzyme being incorporated in the composition at a temperature less than about 80°C.

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2. The chewable confectionery composition of claim 1 wherein the enzyme is papain.

3. The chewable confectionery composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is in the form of a tablet.

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4. The chewable confectionery composition of claim 1 wherein the composition is a chewing gum.

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5. The chewable confectionery composition of claim 1 wherein the composition has a moisture content of less than about 5% by weight.

6. The chewable composition of claim 2 wherein the composition contains the enzyme papain at a concentration of about 0.1 to about 3.0% by weight.

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7. The chewable confectionery composition of claim 1 wherein the non-cariogenic sweetener is a sugar alcohol.

8. The chewable confectionery composition of claim 1 wherein the non-cariogenic sweetener is an artificial sweetener.

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9. The chewable confectionery composition of claim 1 wherein the non-cariogenic sweetener is a sugar alcohol of a disaccharide.

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10. The chewable confectionery composition of claim 1 wherein the non-cariogenic sweetener is present in the composition at a concentration of about 25 to about 95% by weight.